

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (New) A flat knitting machine, having a carriage provided along a longitudinal direction of the needle bed with: a plurality of cam systems operating a needle in a needle bed; and a plurality of accompanying means for allowing accompaniment of a yarn carrier and releasing the accompaniment of the yarn carrier, wherein a yarn is fed to the yarn carrier from a fixed yarn guide through a movable yarn guide, the fixed yarn guide provided at an end of the needle bed, the movable yarn guide positioned between the fixed yarn guide and the yarn carrier, and the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide provided on the same yarn guide rail, and wherein:

first accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the yarn carrier;

the movable yarn guide is structured such that the movable yarn guide can be accompanied by the plurality of accompanying means and the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide can be released by the plurality of accompanying means, and second accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the movable yarn guide and releases the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide; and

the second accompanying means is controlled by control data for the movable yarn guide in a knitting program for controlling the carriage such that an interval between the movable yarn guide and the yarn carrier is kept within a predetermined range, and a position of releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide falls within a stroke of the second accompanying means at the time of the next accompaniment of the movable yarn guide.

8. (New) The flat knitting machine of claim 7, wherein by the control data for the movable yarn guide, a lower limit of the predetermined range is set to an interval between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means, and the movable yarn guide is not accompanied beyond a center of the needle bed.

9. (New) The flat knitting machine of claim 8, wherein the movable yarn guide is moved toward the center of the needle bed with the second accompanying means beforehand in a course where an extent of a protrusion of a position where the carriage starts to move toward the fixed yarn guide is larger than an extent of a protrusion of a position where the carriage starts to move toward the fixed yarn guide in a next course in the same direction as a direction of the course, and at the time of starting the next course in the same direction, the interval between the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide becomes the interval between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means or less.

10. (New) The flat knitting machine of claim 7, further comprising means for converting control data for the yarn carrier in the knitting program into the control data for the movable yarn guide.

11. (New) A knitting method with a flat knitting machine, having a carriage provided along a longitudinal direction of the needle bed with: a plurality of cam systems operating a needle in a needle bed; and a plurality of accompanying means for allowing accompaniment of a yarn carrier and releasing the accompaniment of the yarn carrier, wherein a yarn is fed to the yarn carrier from a fixed yarn guide through a movable yarn guide, the fixed yarn guide provided at an end of the needle bed, the movable yarn guide positioned between the fixed yarn guide and the yarn carrier, and the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide provided on the same yarn guide rail, and wherein:

first accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the yarn carrier;

the movable yarn guide is structured such that the movable yarn guide can be accompanied by the plurality of accompanying means and the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide can be released by the plurality of accompanying means, and second accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the movable yarn guide and releases the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide; and

the second accompanying means is controlled by control data for the movable yarn guide in a knitting program for controlling the carriage such that an interval between the movable yarn guide and the yarn carrier is kept within a predetermined range, and a position of releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide falls within a stroke of the second accompanying means at the time of the next accompaniment of the movable yarn guide.

12. (New) The knitting method of claim 11, wherein by the control data for the movable yarn guide, a lower limit of the predetermined range is set to an interval between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means, and the movable yarn guide is not accompanied beyond a center of the needle bed.

13. (New) The knitting method of claim 12, wherein the movable yarn guide is moved toward the center of the needle bed with the second accompanying means beforehand in a course where an extent of a protrusion of a position where the carriage starts to move toward the fixed yarn guide is larger than an extent of a protrusion of a position where the carriage starts to move toward the fixed yarn guide in a next course in the same direction as a direction of the course, and at the time of starting the next course in the same direction, the interval between the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide becomes the interval between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means or less.

14. (New) An apparatus for generating a knitting program for a flat knitting machine, having a carriage provided along a longitudinal direction of the needle bed with: a plurality of cam systems operating a needle in a needle bed; and a plurality of

accompanying means for allowing accompaniment of a yarn carrier and releasing the accompaniment of the yarn carrier, wherein:

a yarn is fed to the yarn carrier from a fixed yarn guide through a movable yarn guide, the fixed yarn guide provided at an end of the needle bed, the movable yarn guide positioned between the fixed yarn guide and the yarn carrier, and the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide provided on the same yarn guide rail;

first accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the yarn carrier; and

the movable yarn guide is structured such that the movable yarn guide can be accompanied by the plurality of accompanying means and the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide can be released by the plurality of accompanying means, and second accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the movable yarn guide and releases the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide, and wherein

control data for the movable yarn guide is generated such that an interval between the movable yarn guide and the yarn carrier is kept within a predetermined range, and a position of releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide falls within a stroke of the second accompanying means at the time of the next accompaniment of the movable yarn guide by controlling the second accompanying means.

15. (New) The knitting program generation apparatus of claim 14, wherein by the control data for the movable yarn guide, a lower limit of the predetermined range is set to an interval between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means, and the movable yarn guide is not accompanied beyond a center of the needle bed.

16. (New) The knitting program generation apparatus of claim 15, wherein, by the control data for the movable yarn guide, the movable yarn guide is moved toward the center of the needle bed with the second accompanying means beforehand in a course where an extent of a protrusion of a start position where the carriage starts to

move toward the fixed yarn guide is larger than an extent of a protrusion of a position where the carriage starts to move toward the fixed yarn guide in a next course in the same direction as a direction of the course, and at the time of starting the next course in the same direction, an interval between the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide becomes the interval between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means or less.

17. (New) A knitting program for a flat knitting machine, having a carriage provided along a longitudinal direction of the needle bed with: a plurality of cam systems operating a needle in a needle bed; and a plurality of accompanying means for allowing accompaniment of a yarn carrier and releasing the accompaniment of the yarn carrier, wherein:

a yarn is fed to the yarn carrier from a fixed yarn guide through a movable yarn guide, the fixed yarn guide provided at an end of the needle bed, the movable yarn guide positioned between the fixed yarn guide and the yarn carrier, and the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide provided on the same yarn guide rail;

first accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the yarn carrier; and

the movable yarn guide is structured such that the movable yarn guide can be accompanied and the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide can be released by the plurality of accompanying means, and second accompanying means among the plurality of accompanying means accompanies the movable yarn guide, and releases the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide, the program comprising

control data for the movable yarn guide such that an interval between the movable yarn guide and the yarn carrier is kept within a predetermined range, and a position of releasing the accompaniment of the movable yarn guide falls within a stroke of the second accompanying means at the time of the next accompaniment of the movable yarn guide by controlling the second accompanying means.

18. (New) The knitting program of claim 17, wherein by the control data for the movable yarn guide, a lower limit of the predetermined range is set to an interval

between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means, and the movable yarn guide is not accompanied beyond a center of the needle bed.

19. (New) The knitting program of claim 18, wherein, by the control data for the movable yarn guide, the movable yarn guide is moved toward the center of the needle bed with the second accompanying means beforehand in a course where an extent of a protrusion of a position where the carriage starts to move toward the fixed yarn guide is larger than an extent of a protrusion of a position where the carriage starts to move toward the fixed yarn guide in a next course in the same direction as a direction of the course, and, at the time of starting the next course in the same direction, the interval between the yarn carrier and the movable yarn guide becomes the interval between the first accompanying means and the second accompanying means or less.